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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLN. OF: SHIRAKAWA et al.
FILED: February 15, 2002
FOR: OPTICAL DISK DEVICE
DOCKET: NEC 01FN073

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRIOR ART DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

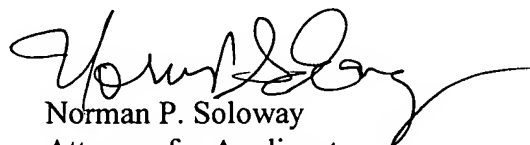
Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicant hereby attaches U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including copies of the references listed therein. The references are discussed in the specification. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,


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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number (Optional)

NEC 01FN073

Application Number

Applicant(s)

SHIRAKAWA et al.

Filing Date

February 15, 2002

Group Art Unit

10/07/02



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
							YES	NO
		JP 2000-20993	01/21/2000	JAPAN				
		JP 2000-020999	01/21/2000	JAPAN				
		JP 2000-011402	01/14/2000	JAPAN				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.